



TWO CENTS.

SCRANTON, PA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 25, 1898.

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## CEVERA'S FLEET HAS BEEN DIVIDED

### It Is Reported That the Viscaya and the Alfonso XIII Have Been Destroyed—Other Accounts Say That the Spanish Squadron Is Bottled Up in the Harbor at Santiago de Cuba.

London, May 25.—A dispatch to the Financial News from Port de Paix, Hayti, says: "Admiral Cervera is believed to have divided his fleet, and it is reported that the Viscaya and the Alfonso XIII have been destroyed."

#### Battle at Santiago.

New York, May 24.—A Washington special to the Commercial Advertiser says: From a source which cannot be questioned I learn that word was received from Admiral Sampson last night, that he had the Spanish fleet bottled up in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, and intended to bombard the town today, in the hope of forcing a fight. The bombardment is therefore probably now on. It will be a difficult thing to force the Spanish fleet out of the harbor if Cervera does not wish to fight, for the land-locked condition of the harbor and the precipitous character of the defenses of the town make successful bombardment to some degree a matter of chance. From this information it appears that the report of the destruction of the Spanish fleet, which has been current this morning, is probably premature.

#### Saw the Spanish Fleet.

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Port-au-Prince, Hayti, May 24.—A local newspaper, the Matin, says that Rear Admiral Osborne, of the British navy, who left for New York on Sunday on board a Dutch steamer, saw at Curacoa a Spanish squadron composed of five cruisers and five torpedo boat destroyers or torpedo boats.

The Spanish officers are reported to have said they would not accept a battle unless with an equal number of ships, and that they would avoid encountering superior numbers.

Admiral Osborne did not consider the Spanish squadron to be in any way formidable.

The last news received here from Havana was that the Cuban government had decided to admit coal and provisions free of duty.

#### Navy Bulletin.

Washington, May 24.—The navy department this afternoon posted the following bulletin:

The department has no reason to believe that a battle has occurred in the Windward passage.

The auxiliary cruiser St. Louis has cut the cable at Santiago de Cuba and San Juan de Porto Rico.

The transport City of Peking, with 1,200 troops on board, and the transports Sydney and Australia, also loaded with troops, are expected to sail from San Francisco today from Honolulu, from which point they will be conveyed to the Philippines by the cruiser Charleston.

#### Mystery at Madrid.

Madrid, May 24 (11 p. m.)—The same mysterious silence reigns in official circles tonight as last night. The government discloses nothing from the seat of war.

La Correspondencia Espana observes: "An unexplained feeling of despondency is noticeable. As no bad news has been received we can only suggest that this feeling is caused by fears of a prolongation of the war."

#### Naval Battle Imminent.

Key West, Fla., May 24.—The day has been exceedingly quiet, except for the customary quota of alarming rumors always lacking confirmation. The presence of the Spanish squadron in south Cuba waters is confirmed by all incoming bulletins, although no information has been received from our ships. The feeling that a great naval battle is imminent amounts almost to conviction.

### THE BOYS HONORED AT SAN FRANCISCO

#### Thousands Turn Out to Cheer the Soldiers for the Philippines.

PREVIOUS TO EMBARKING ON THE TRANSPORTS FOR MANILA BAY THE OREGON VOLUNTEERS AND THE REGULARS ARE SHOWERED WITH FLOWERS AND FRUIT—AN OVATION ALL ALONG THE LINE.

San Francisco, May 24.—Four companies of the Fourteenth Infantry (regulars), the full regiment of Oregon volunteers and a picked battalion of City California militia, left the presidio today and boarded the transports City of Sydney and Australia, preparatory to starting for Manila. Yesterday's scenes, when the First regiment of California volunteers marched to the dock, were re-enacted today. Long before daylight the big camp at the presidio was astir with the men in blue ready to put the finishing touches on their packing. The "regulars" of the Fourteenth Infantry, marched quickly out of camp and were well on their way to the Pacific Mail dock before the citizens of the town were aware that the movement had begun. The Oregon regiment, however, did not leave the presidio until 8 o'clock.

By that time an enormous crowd had assembled along the line of march. The people of San Francisco, realizing that the key to the Philippines was ready to be won from their own homes, put an extra warmth into their greetings and made the Oregon men feel that they had friends here also. As the troops marched out of the presidio, the men of the Seventh California volunteers lined the roadway and though envious of the good luck of their camp comrades in being selected to go before them, gave them vigorous cheers. When the down town section was reached, bombs were fired, whistles blown and the crowds yelled words of encouragement to the marching soldiers.

#### FLOWERS AND FRUIT.

Women pressed forward into the lines and gave flowers to the men, while patriotic citizens brought baskets of oranges and other fruit, and through the agency of many boys distributed them to the departing warriors. There was another enormous crowd at the dock, but, profiting by yesterday's experience, a large force of police were able to keep the people within bounds.

Arriving at the dock, the Oregon regiment, with the exception of Companies F, I and M, boarded the Australia. The three other companies, together with the four companies of regulars and artillery, embarked on the transport City of Sydney.

#### CUBAN EXPEDITION.

#### The Fanita Sails from Mobile With Arms and Ammunition.

Mobile, Ala., May 24.—The Fanita, the Cuban expedition steamer, Captain Hall in command, finished loading here last night and took on her coal this forenoon. At 3 o'clock this afternoon she proceeded down the ship canal bound probably to Tampa, but no one knows precisely her destination.

There were four passengers on board, Brigadier General Rafael Rodriguez and his aides, Colonel Torres, Trieste and Nunez. Four carloads of material were taken on the vessel consisting of ammunition, guns and stores. Nearly two tons of ice were taken aboard.

#### DEWEY HOLDS FORT.

#### Situation Unchanged at Manila. Food Grows Scarce and Foreign Residents Fear an Outbreak.

Washington, May 24.—The navy department today received a cablegram from Admiral Dewey, as follows: Manila, May 29, via Hong Kong, May 24.—Secretary of the navy, Washington: Situation unchanged. Strict blockade continued. Great scarcity of provisions in Manila. Foreign subjects fear an outbreak of the Spanish soldiers, and they will be transferred to Cavite by the foreign men of war in the harbor. Aguinaldo, the rebel commander in chief, who was brought here from Hong Kong on the tug McCulloch, is organizing a force of native cavalry and may render assistance that will be valuable. (Signed) Dewey.

#### THE MAINE MONUMENT.

#### Lists of All School Children to Be Placed Under It.

Albany, May 24.—It was announced at the State Department of Public Instruction that the committee having charge of the erection of a monument in memory of the sailors killed by the blowing up of the battleship Maine is preparing an enrollment of all school children of the United States, the names to be placed in a vault under the monument.

#### CAN PAY EXPENSES.

Puigcerver States Spain's Finances Are All Right. Madrid, May 24.—In the chamber of deputies today Senor Puigcerver, minister of finance, replying to the criticisms of Marquis de Villa Verde, conservative, with respect to the financial policy of the government, repudiated the charges of want of foresight and asserted that Spain's finances were in a satisfactory condition, assuring the payment of all the expenses of the war. Senor Puigcerver said that in view of

## WILD RUMORS OF NAVAL BATTLES

### The Department Officials at Washington Kept Busy Denying Fake Stories—No Engagement Near the Windward Passage—Spaniards Making Ready for an Offensive Campaign—The Oregon Is Safe from Harm—Cutting of the Cables.

Washington, May 24.—There was a lapse into sensational war rumors in Washington today after a week of comparative quietude. The rumors ranged all the way from the capture of the little Mangrove with a crew of thirteen men, to the reported destruction of the entire Spanish fleet by Sampson's and Schley's combined forces. They were circulated with persistence, notwithstanding their denials, as soon as they could be brought to the attention of any official capable of passing judgment on their accuracy. As the day rolled along, the officials themselves became apprehensive, as was shown by the frequency with which they called for the latest newspaper bulletins. At the close of the day, however, it was again announced in the most positive manner that the navy department had no information to warrant the report of any sort of engagement in the Windward passage.

This did not specifically cover the waters of the West Indies, but in view of the fact that the department has almost pledged itself to let the public know of anything in the nature of a general engagement, possibly the bulletin announcement is sufficient to cover the case.

#### MANY FAKE YARNS.

When Secretary Long started for home after an exceptionally busy day, he stated to a group of newspaper men that the department had received no information of importance. In response to an inquiry as to where the Spanish fleet was located, Mr. Long replied that his belief was that it was still at Santiago de Cuba. Concerning the reported capture of the Mangrove and the loss of other ships, the secretary dismissed the stories as purely conjectural and not supported by facts. Word had come from the commander of the Mangrove since the time of the alleged capture, showing that the ship could not have been in the hands of the Spaniards. Mr. Long paid a handsome tribute to the war board, and stated that there was no purpose whatever of changing the present system whereby this board co-operates with him in giving every possible assistance and advice mainly in the way of information to the admirals in command. The office of the war board, the secretary pointed out, was not to fight battles; that was exclusively the province of the squadron commanders. The board acted merely in an advisory way and at no time had assumed executive functions.

#### COAL STEAMER DETAINED.

Philadelphia Collector Holds a German Vessel Bound South. Philadelphia, May 24.—Fearing that her cargo of coal might fall into the hands of the Spanish warships in Cuban waters, and that the coal is intended for Spanish use, the collector of the port of this city today detained the German steamer Arum, pending instructions from Washington.

#### Leave for Philippines.

New Orleans, May 24.—The Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments of infantry and the Fifth regiment of cavalry which have been in camp at the fair grounds left this afternoon, the former two regiments for the Philippines via San Francisco and the latter for Manila.

#### Pennsylvania Pensioners.

Washington, May 24.—The following Pennsylvania pensioners have been issued: Original widows, etc.—Mary Judge, Parsons, Luzerne, \$; minors of Mathias C. Oliver, Wyalusing, Bradford, \$12.

#### THE OREGON IS SAFE.

Inquiries as to the whereabouts of the Oregon brought a reply this afternoon to the effect that the battleship was safe. Nothing could be learned of her location. It is probable that the telegrams said to have emanated from the vessel really were filed at Key West, but were brought to that port on some despatch boat from the Oregon, which is co-operating with our fleets.

#### THE STORY OF THE DAY

- SPANISH SPY arrested at Key West.
- MYSTERIOUS SILENCE at the war office at Madrid.
- SPANISH TORPEDO BOAT TERROR taken out at Martinique.
- CABLE-CUTTING AT SANTIAGO provokes bloodless skirmish.
- CASTILLO, SPANISH AMBASSADOR seeks a loan in Paris of \$10,000,000.
- CABLES HAVE BEEN CUT at Santiago de Cuba and San Juan de Porto Rico.
- COL. COURSEIN, of the Thirtieth regiment, is made acting brigadier general.
- FOOD SCARCE at Manila and foreign residents fear an outbreak of Spanish soldiers.
- PORT DE PAIX DISPATCH to the London Financial News says that two Spanish ships have been destroyed.
- CONSULAR REPORTS give notice of the neutrality of Russia, Greece, Venezuela, the Netherlands and Canada.
- MANILA DISPATCH says that Admiral Montijo, whose fleet was destroyed by Admiral Dewey is to be court-martialed for cowardice.
- GERMAN COAL-STEAMER bound for southern waters is detained by Philadelphia collector who fears it may fall into the hands of Spain.
- NAVY DEPARTMENT has advised from Spain to the effect that two torpedo boat destroyers are ready to start for the Philippines with Cervera's fleet.

In dead earnest. The sending of these ships will affect the Hawaiian question vitally. Like the Charleston, the transports must stop at Hawaii to replenish their coal bunkers from the great hoards of coal that Consul General Hayward has been piling up for months past. If the Hawaiians let us take this coal without the pretext that we are using it to make our way to our nearest home port, as is required by international law in such cases, they will stand convicted of a gross breach of neutrality that in the eyes of the law of nations allies them with the United States in hostility to Spain. The taking of coal by the American ships at Hawaii to make an extensive campaign against the Spanish possessions, it is believed here, will result in compelling the United States either to assume a protectorate over the islands or to annex them.

### LOOKING FOR THE PHANTOM FLEET

#### The Waters of Southern Cuba Alive With American War Ships—British Vessels at Jamaica.

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On board the Associated Press dispatch boat Dandy, Montego Bay, Jamaica, May 24.—The waters south of Cuba have suddenly become the scene of great naval activity. Commodore Schley, who left Key West last Thursday with the United States battleship Massachusetts and Texas, the armed cruiser Brooklyn and the armed yacht Scorpion, is believed to be cruising off Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba.

When the Dandy left Key West late Friday morning, Admiral Sampson was still there. It was the opinion of naval officers that he would sail for Cienfuegos soon by the eastern route, the two fleets thus completing the circle of Cuba.

The battleship Iowa followed Commodore Schley on Friday, but was overtaken off Cape San Antonio on Saturday by the torpedo boat Dupont, with secret instructions. The battleship immediately increased her speed to the limit and when last seen was guarding the entrance to the passage between the Isle of Pines and Cuba. The Dupont rushed on toward Cienfuegos.

Five British warships are now in the vicinity of Jamaica. The Spanish 1,200 ton passenger steamer Purissima Concepcion is here. She is afraid to venture out. The numerous rumors as to the sighting of the phantom Spanish fleet in this vicinity are quite unsubstantiated.

#### WANAMAKER'S COUNTY.

#### Huntingdon Will Send Delegates to Support Him for Governor.

Huntingdon, Pa., May 24.—The Republican county convention today elected delegates to the state convention in support of John Wanamaker for governor by a vote of 57 to 65 for W. A. Stone. Mr. Wanamaker had a popular majority of 339.

#### THE NEWS THIS MORNING

#### Weather Indications Today: Generally Fair; Southwesterly Winds.

- 1 Telegraph—Cervera's Fleet Has Been Destroyed.
- 2 Wild Rumors of Naval Battles.
- 3 Soldiers Honored at San Francisco.
- 4 Whitney's Budget of News.
- 5 Market and Stock Reports.
- 6 Local—Storm Again Causes No Little Damage.
- 7 City—Missionary Highly Honored.
- 8 Editorial.
- 9 Comment of the Press.
- 10 Local—Catholic Societies State Convention.
- 11 Much Business Was Transacted.
- 12 Second Legislative District Democrats, Municipal Class Reveal.
- 13 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
- 14 Up and Down the Valley.
- 15 Base Ball Games.
- 16 Much Business Was Transacted (Continued).
- 17 Colonel Courten an Acting Brigadier General.

#### WEATHER FORECAST.

- Washington, May 24.—Forecast: + for Wednesday; Forecast Pennsylvanian generally fair weather; + with decreasing cloudiness; wind + becoming northwesterly; fair weather; + on Pennsylvania; fair weather; + light northerly wind.